

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8416

INFO USCINCEUR

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UNCLAS MADRID 1730

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR SP XT

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMUNITY ON POSTPONEMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S
VISIT

1. SINCE MARCH 13 SOME MADRID PAPERS HAVE CARRIED
SCATTERED SPECULATIVE REPORTING AND EDITORIAL COMMENTS
ON POSTPONEMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA'S VISIT TO
WASHINGTON.

2. REPORTING "IMPRESSION" THAT CORTINA VISIT POSTPONED
"SINE DIE" MADRID EVENING DAILY INFORMACIONES CONJECTURES
THAT IT MAY RESULT FROM "TENSIONS THAT HAVE EMERGED IN RECENT
DAYS BETWEEN US AND EEC COUNTRIES." INFORMACIONES REPORT
CONTINUES THAT ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES POSTPONEMENT
DOES NOT MEAN DIFFICULTIES HAVE ARISEN BETWEEN MADRID
AND WASHINGTON, THOUGH DIFFICULTIES CAN ARISE WITHIN TWO
OR THREE MONTHS WHEN BASE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN.

INFORMACIONES REPORT CONCLUDES THAT GOS SEEMS MORE
DISPOSED TO BE MUCH MORE DEMANDING ON BASES AND THAT
PRESIDENT NIXON WILL NOT GET MUCH HELP FROM CONGRESS.

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3. MONARCHIST DAILY ABC OF MARCH 14 STATES DECISION TO POSTPONE CORTINA VISIT WAS TAKEN JOINTLY BY US AND SPAIN IN WAKE OF SITUATION OF APPARENT PLITICAL TENSION OF RECENT DAYS BETWEEN US AND EEC. ABC CONTINUES THAT, SINCE US AND SPAIN WERE GOING TO DRAFT OR SIGN DECLARATION ANALOGOUS TO THAT OF US-EEC, IT WAS CONSIDERED ADVISABLE TO DELAY MATTERS. DELAY, HOWEVER, DOES NOT MEAN THAT US-SPANISH RELATIONS IN ABNORMAL SITUATION, EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOW CONJECTURED THAT SPANISH GOVERNMENT MAY HARDEN ITS BARGAINING POSITION WHEN BASES NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN.

4. INFORMACIONES OF MARCH 14 CARRIED EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "QUESTIONS ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY" WHICH TOOK NOTE OF SPATE OF RECENT INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPORTS AND COMMENTARY INVOLVING US-SPAIN-EEC-NATO RELATIONS. INFORMACIONES RECALLS SPECIFICALLY FOLLOWING RECENT NEWS ITEMS: A. LE MONDE REPORT THAT WASHINGTON AND MADRID PRESSING NATO CAPITALS TO ACCEPT SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO; B. STATE DEPARTMENT'S DENIAL OF FOREGOING, WITH ASSURANCES US AND SPAIN NOW NEGOTIATING ONLY ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES; C. REPORTS OF POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT OF CORTINA, "WHO WAS GOING TO SIGN JOINT DEFENSE DECLARATION ON MARCH 21"; D. JAMES RESTON'S REPORT IN NEW YORK TIMES THAT SPAIN'S ENTRY INTO NATO, ACCORDING TO JOBERT, POINT OF CONFLICT BETWEEN US AND EUROPEAN BLOC; E. WASHINGTON DECISION TO FREEZE US-EEC JOINT DECLARATION BECAUSE OF COMMUNITY'S ASPIRATION OF MAINTAINING DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL POLICY; F. UNDENIED REPORT IN MADRID PRESS CONCERNING POSSIBILITY THAT US MAY OFFER "TO GUARANTEE SPANISH SECURITY AGAINST POSSIBLE INTERNAL ENEMIES" (THIS POINT REFERS TO BRIEF, SPECULATIVE COMMENT MADE BY PUEBLO COLUMNIST PEDRO RODRIGUEZ TWO WEEKS AGO.

5. INFORMACIONES VOICES DISPLEASURE WITH TENDENCY OF STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TO GIVE NEWS INVOLVING SPAIN WITHOUT CONSULTING FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND IS EVEN MORE DISPLEASED OVER INTERNATIONAL DEBATE ABOUT SPAIN'S ENTRY INTO NATO EVEN THOUGH MATTER HAS NOT BEEN DEBATED HERE OR COMMENTED ON BY SPANISH AUTHORITIES.

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6. CLAIMING IT WOULD PREFER TO BE ABLE TO GIVE AMPLE INFORMATION TO ITS READERS ON ALL THESE QUESTIONS, INFORMACIONES REGRETS IT HAS NO INFORMATION AND CAN ONLY RAISE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN LIGHT OF RECENT NEWS STORIES: IS GOS INTERESTED IN BRINGING SPAIN INTO ATLANTIC ALLIANCE? WHAT DOES JOINT DECLARATION ADD TO THE EXISTING AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION? WILL TEXT OF US-SPANISH DECLARATION CONTRADICT BASIC PRINCIPLES OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S FOREIGN POLICY?

DO WE RUN RISK OF DRAWING NEAR TO US TO SAME DEGREE THAT WE
DRAW AWAY FROM PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTIONS OF A UNIFIED EUROPE?
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